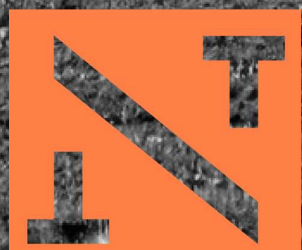


DANCING AT LUGHNASA

BY BRIAN FRIEL

21 APR - 16 MAY
2026





CREATIVES

Director Isabella Milkovitsch
Choreographer Avalon Ormiston
Set Designer Max Shaw
Lighting Designer Paris Bell
Costume Designer Lily Moody
Sound Designer/Composer Maddy Briggs
Violinist Beatrix Leonard
Lighting Associate Amy van Gelder Brown
Dramaturg Naomi Belet
Assistant Director Talia Benatar
Accent Coach Benjamin Purser
Intimacy Consultant Shondelle Pratt

CAST

Maggie Mundy Megan Bennetts
Agnes Mundy Audrey Blyde
Gerry Evans Sebastian Gray
Kate Mundy Marisa-Clare Hissey
Michael Evans Patrick Holman
Chris Mundy Iris Simpson
Father Jack James Sugrue
Rose Mundy Tenielle Thompson

PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Stage Managers Lawrence Kim, Ron Abuhalaiqa
Technicians Holly Nisbett, Jay Murrin, Marc Monnet-Demarbre,
Mugi Honna, Emma Van Veen
Set Construction Crew David Marshall-Martin, Tom Bannerman,
Rodger Whishart

Please note: this production contains theatrical haze, smoking, flashing lights, references to death and harm to animals and adult themes.

Running time: 2 hours and 25 minutes including one interval of 15 minutes.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Gadigal, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

PLAYWRIGHT NOTES

Brian Friel 1929- 2015

Born near Omagh, Northern Ireland, Brian Friel is widely regarded as one of Ireland's greatest playwrights. He explored social and political life in Ireland and Northern Ireland as he delved into family ties, communication and mythmaking as human needs, and the tangled relationships between narrative, history, and nationality.

Often hailed as "Ireland's Chekhov," Friel's plays explore themes of identity, language, memory, and the human condition, drawing deeply on the cultural and political landscape of the north west of Ireland, in particular Derry and Donegal.

in 1963, he wrote his first dramatic success, *Philadelphia, Here I Come!*, produced first at the Dublin Theatre Festival and subsequently in New York City and London. It received a Tony Award nomination for best play.

In the 1970s Friel's work became increasingly political, relating the dilemmas of Irish life and the Troubles in Northern Ireland in such plays as *The Freedom of the City*, *Volunteers*, *Living Quarters*, and *Making History*. Other notable plays include *Aristocrats*, *Translations*, and *DANCING AT LUGHNASA*. The latter told the story of five unmarried sisters (based on his own aunts) living together in the fictional village of Ballybeg, Ireland. *DANCING AT LUGHNASA* debuted at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 1990 and later moved to London and Broadway, earning a Laurence Olivier Award and a Tony for best play.

In 1980 Friel cofounded (with actor-director Stephen Rea) the Field Day Theatre Company in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. He was elected Saoi of Aosdána, Ireland's highest artistic honour, in 2006, and in 2009 Queen's University, Belfast, inaugurated the Brian Friel Theatre and Centre for Theatre Research.

His mother's home, the small market town of Glenties in southern Donegal, was the origin of Ballybeg (in Irish, Baile Beag, meaning small town), the fictional location of almost all his plays. In a dedication to Friel published in 2015, Gary McKeone spoke of the legacy of Ballybeg:-

"You will search maps of Donegal in vain for Ballybeg but it is every bit as real, in its own way, as the many villages and small towns that make up the actual landscape of the north-west corner of Ireland. Such is the force of Friel's creation that the imagined Ballybeg has become part of the Irish psyche. Through it, the playwright reveals Ireland, past and present, to itself. More than that, Ballybeg becomes a kind of everyplace, where the whole business of being human is laid bare in a body of work that is as compassionate as it is skilful, as moving as it is entertaining, and as universal as it is local."

Helen Tonkin Literary Manager

BIOGRAPHIES



ISABELLA MILKOVITSCH DIRECTOR

Isabella is a director and producer. She holds a First Class Honours degree in Theatre and Performance Studies from the University of Sydney and works as a freelance director across the independent theatre scene and in high schools. She is also a Producer with Sport for Jove Theatre Company and a 2026 participant in ATYP's Fresh Ink+ Directors' Stream.

As Director: *Dancing at Lughnasa* (New Theatre); *BiPolar Express* (Sydney Fringe); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (co-directed with Damien Ryan); *The Real Inspector Hound*; *Knock Knock*; and *The Day the Internet Died* (International Grammar School).

As Assistant Director: *Betrayal* (Sport for Jove) *Twelfth Night*, *Banging Denmark* and *Shakespeare in Love* (New Theatre).

As Independent Producer: *Much Ado* (Flight Path Theatre).

As Stage Manager: *Romeo and Juliet* (tour); *Macbeth* (tour); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Summer Season); and *Timon of Athens* (Sport for Jove).



AVALON ORMISTON CHOREOGRAPHER

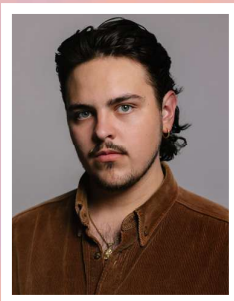
Avalon is a choreographer and dancer originally from Meanjin/Brisbane, now working on Gadigal land. She is a graduate of Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year (2022) and has since performed with Opera Australia, Stephanie Lake Company, and internationally in Pau Aran's Berlin-based work *The Body Keeps It Honest*.

In 2024, Avalon was awarded the Ian Potter Emerging Artist Grant, one of only three dancers nationwide to receive the honour, supporting her professional development overseas. She holds a Bachelor of Health Science (Human Movement) from the University of Sydney, which informs her artistic

practice.

Avalon was the recipient of the 2025 inaugural graduate pathway internship with Stephanie Lake Company, performing in *Auto Cannibal* at Dance X Festival. Her recent choreographic work *BiPolar Express* (Sydney Fringe Festival) was widely praised and is set to be adapted for a future season.

As Dancer: *Hansel & Gretel* (Opera Australia); *Dance Captain: Carmen* (Opera Australia – Sydney/Melbourne); *Aida* (Opera Australia); *Auto Cannibal* (Stephanie Lake Company); and *The Body Keeps It Honest* (Pau Aran, Berlin).

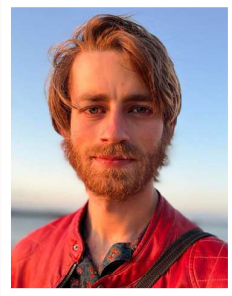


MAX SHAW SET DESIGNER

Max is a Sydney-based actor, designer and fight choreographer. He graduated from AFTT with a Bachelor of Creative Arts in 2023.

While pursuing acting, Max began working as a set builder on New Theatre's production of *Jellyfish* in 2023 and has since developed his design practice through hands-on work across numerous productions in the Sydney theatre scene.

As Designer and Fight Choreographer: *Henry VI Trilogy* (Sydney Shakespeare Company).



PARIS BELL LIGHTING DESIGNER

Paris is a Sydney-based creative working across technical theatre, design and animation. They work as Venue Technical Supervisor at Bell Shakespeare and also develop stop-motion animation.

As Set Designer: *Lost & Findings*; *For the Love of Paper*; and *Rhomboid* (KXT).

As Lighting Designer: *35mm*; *Homos*, or *Everyone in America*.

Paris' work on *Lost & Findings* was recognised with a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Independent Set Design. They occasionally dance ballet.



LILY MOODY COSTUME DESIGNER

Lily is an award-nominated Sydney/Gadigal-based costume designer and has been working in costume since graduating from Whitehouse Institute of Design with a Bachelor of Design (Fashion) in 2021.

In 2025, Lily was nominated for a Mainstage Sydney Theatre Award for her work on *The Player Kings* (Sport for Jove), alongside Ruby Jenkins and Kate Beere.

As Costume Designer: *The Government Inspector* (Fingerless Theatre); *Fuccbois* (Long Con Theatre); *Children of Elsinore* (Barker College); *The Player Kings: Chapters 1 and 2* (Sport for Jove); *Dangerous Liaisons* (New Theatre); and *As You Like It* (Fingerless Theatre).



MADDY BRIGGS SOUND DESIGNER/COMPOSER

Maddy is a composer and sound designer working across live performance, screen composition, chamber music and electroacoustic practice. Her work has been presented at Vivid Sydney, MUSLAB's International Electroacoustic Music Festival, and Phoenix Central Park's The Church, and has been featured on SBS On Demand and BBC Radio 6 Music.



AMY VAN GELDER BROWN LIGHTING ASSOCIATE

Amy is an aspiring lighting designer. Since 2024, she has worked at Flight Path Theatre as a lighting and venue technician, as well as operating lighting and sound on a range of productions over the past year.

As Lighting Designer: *The Bookstore* (Sydney Fringe 2025, Suitcase Theatre Co.); and various performances of *Especiallly on Birthdays* (Shiny Heart Productions).

Amy has also worked at Sydney Festival and hopes to make it to Edinburgh Fringe this year.



NAOMI BELET DRAMATURG

Naomi is an actor, composer and theatre maker based in Sydney.

As Actor: *The Comedy of Errors* (Sport for Jove/Merrigong Theatre); *Antigone*: *Antigone* (Sydney Dramaturgical); *Romeo and Juliet* (Sport for Jove); *Bipolar Express* (Flightpath Theatre); *HAIR: An American Musical* (Factory Theatre); *Gravity Guts* (Rogue Projects); *Twelfth Night* (Bar'd Work); and Maria Marten: *The Ballad of Maria Marten* (New Theatre).

Naomi will make her feature film debut in the lead role in *Electric Feel* (SunBlast Films), directed by Sean Bell.

She wrote, directed, composed music for and performed in *NOTHING LASTS FOREVER: [a love story]* (107 Projects), and has been commissioned to compose for *Nineteen to the Dozen* (Sydney Opera House/The Song Company), *The Comedy of Errors* (Sport for Jove/Merrigong Theatre), and the EPs *Lalaki* (BVT) and *Lucid Nights* (Nuex).





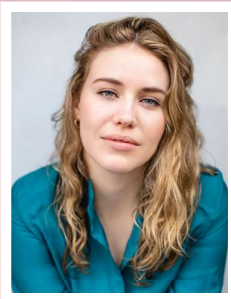
MEGAN BENNETTS MAGGIE MUNDY

Megan is an unabashed theatre tragic, who has been prat-falling, triple-taking, and generally engaging in silly-billy behaviour across the Sydney independent scene for almost a decade. An honours graduate of the University of Wollongong's performance course, she has also studied Shakespearean acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

As Actor: *As You Like It* (Fingerless Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew* (Playwright Project); *The Frogs: In Hell They Sing Show Tunes*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (New Theatre); *Three Sisters* (Virginia Plain); *Augusta* (subtlenuance); *Much Ado About Nothin'* (Bar'd Work); *Twelfth Night*

(Fingerless Theatre); *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (By Chicks)* (Sydney Fringe); *Macbeth* (SheShakespeare); and various Theatre in Education productions (Australian Shakespeare Company).

Meg was the recipient of the inaugural Katie Lees Fellowship at Flight Path Theatre, through which she developed, wrote and performed her one-woman show *Losing It* in 2022 and 2023. She is represented by Lean Artists Collective.



AUDREY BLYDE AGNES MUNDY

Audrey is a professional actor and voice-over artist. She is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), where she completed a BA in Acting in 2017.

As Actor: *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *Collaborators* (New Theatre); *The Taming of the Shrew* (The Playwright Project); *Seeds in Your Pocket*, *The Orange Seller of Tangier* (Mad Bitches Inc.); and *Lysistrata* (Tempest Theatre).

Screen Credits: *Home and Away* (Seven Network); *Les Norton* (ABC TV).

Audrey toured Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong in 2024 as a core ensemble member of educational theatre company Poetry in Action.

She also holds a Diploma in Film & Television Production from JMC Academy Sydney and is a proud member of both MEAA and AAVA.

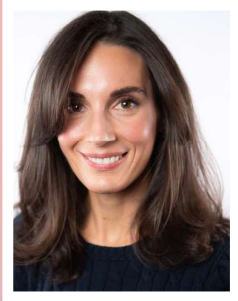


SEBASTIAN GRAY GERRY EVANS

Sebastian is an actor and writer. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts from The University of Sydney and later trained at Actors Centre Australia, graduating with a Bachelor of Performing Arts. He continues to develop his practice while producing an original work for Sydney Fringe Festival in 2026.

Screen Credits: Alfred: *Seabird* (Suzanne Chevassus); Script Supervisor: *On the Fence* (Sweeping Plains Films).

DANCING AT LUGHNASA is Sebastian's New Theatre debut.



MARISA-CLARE HISSEY KATE MUNDY

Marisa has been fortunate to spend much of her life pursuing her passion for telling strong stories, both in Australia and overseas. She returned home in December after ten years in the United States.

As Actor (US): Sophie: *The Da Vinci Code* (Tacoma Little Theatre); *Double Shot 24 Hr Festival* (Tacoma Arts Live); Mrs Little: *Stuart Little* (Centerstage); Annie: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Tacoma Little Theatre); and Greta: *Murder on the Orient Express*.

As Actor (Australia): Adela: *The House of Bernarda Alba*; Sorrel: *Hay Fever* (Genesian Theatre); Mabel: *The Pirates of Penzance* (Blue Mountains Musical Society); Belle: *Beauty and the Beast*; Maria: *West Side Story*; and Beatrice: *The Venetian Twins* (New Theatre).

Marisa lives in the Southern Highlands with her hugely supportive husband, their four-year-old, and a donkey.



PATRICK HOLMAN MICHAEL EVANS

Patrick Holman is a Sydney-based actor and writer with a passion for acting and writing, and a background in music (drums and percussion) and dance. He recently lived in Dublin, where he completed the 2025 Intermediate Screen Acting course at The Lir Academy. His training also includes Film and Screen classes at Sydney Actors Association and the 2017 Actors Studio at NIDA Open.

As Actor: Macbeth (SUDS); *The Becoming* (Fringe Festival/New Theatre); *Broadway Bound*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (New Theatre); 3 Winters (NIDA Open); and *The 39 Steps* (Chevalier College).

Patrick has also performed regularly with Players in the Pub, an associate group of New Theatre.



IRIS SIMPSON CHRIS MUNDY

Iris is an actor and theatre maker working across Sydney and Melbourne, creating joyful immersive work across a variety of forms. She graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Theatre) in 2022 and has since worked as a producer and creative for independent and major theatre companies.

As Actor and Creative: *Chasing the Wind*; *A Dance of Ribbons*, *Tarot* (Come Close and Listen); *Veronica Franco vs. Instagram* (Gertrude Glasshouse); *SALT*, *Tender Young Creatures* (The House That Dan Built).

Screen Credits: *Headspins*; *Remember When*.

Iris also performed in *ASSEMBLY*, Angelica Mesiti's work for the Venice Biennale.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA is Iris' New Theatre debut.



JAMES SUGRUE FATHER JACK

James left Ireland 25 years ago to settle in Sydney, and in recent years has returned to his childhood passion for acting.

As Actor: *Closer*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Angels in America* (Darlo Drama); and *Towards Zero* (Genesian Theatre).

James is in his second year of studying the Alexander Technique with Marietta Simmaro at her Darlinghurst studio.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA is James' New Theatre debut.



TENIELLE THOMPSON ROSE MUNDY

Tanielle is an actor and theatre maker who graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2016 and spent much of her career in Melbourne before returning to her Sydney hometown in 2023.

As Actor: *Annunziata: Arlecchino* (Endangered Productions); *Noises Off* (Campbelltown Theatre); *Helen: The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Campbelltown Theatre); *The Mad Women Monologues* (Baggage Productions); *Sandy: The Man from Earth* (Thespian Theatre Company); *Lucia Joyce: Solas* (Lynda Fleming); and *Ella: Love You Bitch* (Stage Mom Productions).

As Actor and Assistant Director: *Noises Off* (Campbelltown Theatre).

Tanielle was an artistic collaborator in the development process and a performer in *Control* (Romi Kumfer).

Screen Credits: *Vineyard Ablaze* (Sensory Echo Films); *Carrie: A Handful of Toenails*.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA is Tanielle's New Theatre debut.





LAWRENCE KIM STAGE MANAGER

Lawrence is an emerging actor and stage manager currently studying acting at JMC Academy in Sydney. He is also a graduate of the Stage Management course at JMC Academy (2024) and is building his practice across both disciplines.

As Stage Manager: *Dancing at Lughnasa* (New Theatre); *Henry VI, Part III*, *Richard III*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (JMC Academy); *The Learned Ladies* (25A Belvoir St Theatre); and *Chosen Ones* (The Cellar Theatre).

As Actor: Don Pedro: *Much Ado About Nothing* (JMC Academy); Guard 1: *Marian, or the True Tale of Robin Hood* (JMC Academy).

Lawrence will next appear in *Much Ado About Nothing* (JMC Academy).



RON ABUHALAIQA STAGE MANAGER

Ron is currently completing a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) at UNSW and has recently begun his journey in theatre.

As Technician: *Stage Kiss*, *Perfect Arrangement* (New Theatre).



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Sport for Jove Theatre Company, Amahlia Day, Larissa Turton

DANCING AT LUGHNASA

By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical

On Behalf of Samuel French

A Concord Theatricals Company

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